

MANCHESTER CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY MARCH 7, 2005
6:21-7:42PM

- ❖ **Location:** City Hall - Third floor conference room
- ❖ **Commissioners Present:** Jen Drociak, Marty Gavin, Kathleen Neville, JoAnn O'Shaughnessey, Eric Skoglund (Vice Chair)
- ❖ **Commissioners Absent:** Todd Connors, Michael Poisson (Chair)
- ❖ **Others Present:** Pat Mattson, Jonathan O'Rourke
- ❖ **Submitted By:** Jonathan O'Rourke

Next Meeting on Monday, March 21 2005 at 6:15pm

AGENDA

I. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes from the February 7th meeting were approved with noted changes. There was no meeting on the third Monday of February.

II. Treasurer's Report

There is \$10, 430.59 remaining in the budget. Should anyone have any requests, please make them soon.

III. Old Business

West Environmental: Jen initially scheduled this presentation for Wednesday March 16, 2005 in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall. Jen received a call from Paula Kang of the City Clerk's office. We will need to reschedule. Kathleen will contact the City Clerk's office to obtain additional dates and times to hold this special meeting. Jen suggested that Kathleen coordinate with Michael, who is in contact with Mark West. Pat suggested seeing if we could get more public involvement.

Riverdale Ave.: JoAnn would like to follow through with the commitment to research conservation easements. Jen mentioned that we were supposed to contact the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), which was originally mentioned by Andy Manning at our Oct 4th meeting. Kathleen Neville pointed out that one of the reasons that he recommended this organization was because of their ability to steward or locate an interested party for this type of project. This endeavor is unique due to the small size of the parcels. Mike Poisson mentioned that Bill Cass and Marc Lauren could possibly assist with these efforts as well. JoAnn made contact with Senator Sununu to determine what to do with the properties. Senator Sununu is in constant contact with US Fish and Wildlife Service to speak with developers to come to an agreement.

All Dog's Gym: JoAnn asked about the current status of our agreement with this business, and mentioned that they still owe us five \$5-\$10,000. Eric added that they have not met their obligations. The Commission discussed giving them a timeline, but it was determined that these efforts would be useless, due to several similar failed attempts. All Dogs Gym owes \$10K The Commission would like to further discuss the implications of not following the guidelines.

Bass Island:

The estimated cost for Bass Island Park (West) stormwater BMP improvements has increased to \$80,000.00.

Jane Beaulieu (For Manchester) has until next week to secure other monies to purchase Bass Island (East) or the SEPP committee will take the \$1 million (formerly set aside) back to use for another project.

Donna Bouttin / Dan Bishop: Dan Bishop no longer works for Mrs. Boutin. She will persue the matter herself. The height issue of the wall has been clarified with Eric. Eric will contact Donna Button to set up a time for MCC to hold a site walk.

Stark Lane: Jen clarified that the owners are pursuing a variance to the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) to change the footprint of the home.

Conservation Easements: Marty will provide information to the Highway Department regarding the number and acreage of MCC's easements. The deeds are already accounted for with dimension and boundaries being specified.

SEPP: Kathleen Neville said that she would start forwarding SEPP meeting minutes to all Manchester Conservation Commissioners. SEPP will be winding down soon. Most programs are going through December of 2005. The next SEPP meeting is Wednesday March 16th. Kathleen asked if there was anything we need funding earmarked for; otherwise funds will be transferred to Nutts Pond.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Kiosks JoAnn is working with an Eagle Scout to complete his Eagle Scout Project. He would like to station several kiosks in the area; Dunbar St, Baseball Park and Depot St. This Eagle Scout will be talking to his troop to get approval to complete these projects. He would be building the kiosks and putting them into place. Inquiries should be made for possible funding and info from the Audubon Society.

Earth Day: Jen, Kathleen, and Art met with representatives from the Student Conservation Association (SCA) on Monday March 7, 2005 (prior to the MCC meeting). This event is scheduled for Saturday April 23rd is being sponsored by SCA with assistance from the City of Manchester. SCA is in need of financial assistance and volunteers. There will be a brush-clearing and trash-pickup at two rails to trails sites during mid-day. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. Catherine Deeley is the contact individual from Bear Brook State Park.

Hackett Hill: The property (old UNH building) is still owned by the City but will soon be transferred to Brooks Properties. The Commission would like to put an easement around key areas of the preserve. Commissioners would like to review any plans submitted to the Planning or Zoning Boards for this area. Pat stated that this was buffer zones were discussed with the Alderman and Bob Mackenzie. She feels that trees in the area should be kept the way it stands now and would like to see the old pines remain. The Commission would like to submit a letter to Bob Mackenzie, for a proposal to view the plans for any development around wetland areas. Eric will draft the letter and have it ready for the next meeting. Pat stated concerns in reference to the hydrology surrounding the swamps. They are being occupied with housing she said. "Countryside boulevard area, it looks as though a person trying to get to the beaver pond and the Rhododendron Pond would be going through someone's backyard." How

could we construct a path for access to this area? Pat, Kathleen, Marty and Eric discussed possible paths that could be created in the area to circumvent the development and the surrounding area.

Other: Jen asked Jonathon O'Rourke to ask Sam Maranto (sp?) (Planning Department) to attend our next meeting. The Commission would like to meet him and discuss future plans of the Urban Ponds Restoration Program Coordinator position, duties, and MCC's past and future involvement.

IV. MAIL

- 49 Stark Lane, Property Waiver "Thank You", Submitted by Chris Grissom.
- Furniture World South Porter St. update
- Student conservation commission parks from Americorps
Complaint filed for Dunbarton Rd by a Mr. Groth, by Manchester Aggregate Industries.
- Community Access, Legal Agreement